

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as shown in the Listing of Claims below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Original): A method of making an unfired refractory component that is resistant to reaction with molten aluminum or magnesium, comprising:

- (a) forming a slurry comprising calcium silicate-containing refractory material and a barium- or strontium-containing compound;
- (b) placing the slurry in a mould;
- (c) dewatering the slurry to form the component; and
- (d) hydrothermally processing the component to form a final product.

Claim 2. (Original): A method according to claim 1 wherein the barium- or strontium-containing compound is a barium-containing compound selected from barium sulphate, barium oxide and barium hydroxide.

Claim 3. (Original): A method according to claim 2 wherein the barium sulphate is a powder or a slurry.

Claim 4. (Original): A method according to claim 2 wherein the barium oxide or the barium hydroxide is an aqueous solution.

Claim 5. (Original): A method according to claim 4 wherein the aqueous solution is prepared with water at a temperature of at least 30°C.

Claim 6. (Original): A method according to claim 4 wherein the aqueous solution is prepared with water at a temperature of at least 40°C.

Claims 7 – 13 (Canceled).